THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N.J.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

January 14, 1916.

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,

Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Robinson:-

Your letter of January 12th was awaiting me yesterday on my return from the Evangelistic Conference at Washington, D.C., and I take the first opportunity to reply. I agree with you that Dr. Palmer would not be the best man for the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. He took his first year at Union Seminary but spent two years at McCormick, from which institution he graduated. I am sorry if he has gone over to the liberals. He was at our Conference in Washington on Wednesday and I was not at all impressed by his remarks which seemed to me rather frivolous in their character. Are you sure that the Union Seminary men are pushing him?

Recently I have had some conference with Dr. Maitland Alexander and Dr. McEwan regarding F. W. Irwin of Louisville, Ky. He too is a McCormick Seminary man. He is a remarkably fine preacher and a man of winning personality and in all my intercourse with him has impressed me as being a safe and sound man. Dr. Erdman feels as I do about him. You understand I have no zeal for him because he is a McCormick man. Personally, I would prefer to find for the St. Paul's Church a graduate of our Seminary here.

I have mentioned to Dr. Erdman Rev. Minot C. Morgan, of Summit, N.J. He is a fairly good preacher, but especially strong in pastoral work. I think it would be well worth while for the Committee to look him up.

Rev. R. S. Brank, who graduated from Princeton Seminary in 1906 and is now in Savannah, is looked upon as a remarkably fine preacher. Would the Committee be willing to go so far to hear a man? If not, you might arrange to

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have him preach in some Philadelphia church.

I know nothing about the preaching ability of any of the men you mention excepting Paul Jenkins. He was highly recommended to the Brown Memorial Church when I left, but the Committee were not satisfied that he would fill the bill.

This I am afraid is a rather indefinite letter. Let me know what you would suggest further.

Appreciating your cordial interest, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. Ross Stevenson

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N.J.

My dear Friends:-

It was very generous of you to take me into your hospitable home on Thursday evening and I was glad indeed for the opportunity to have a little visit with you. Please accept my sincere gratitude for your great goodness.

We had an interesting day at the Executive Commission meeting yesterday. A form of charter was presented and steps were take to secure its legal endorsement by the Legislature of New York.

On my return home last evening I was glad to learn that a telegram had come announcing the improvement of mother. A letter this morning states that she is really much better. It seems a little short of a miracle that a person of her years who has been so seriously ill should be recovering. Our hearts naturally overflow with joy.

I saw Stewart at Chapel this morning and he looked hale, hearty and happy. We are perpet-

ually glad to have him here with us.

Remember me very cordially to your father.

With all good wishes, I am,

Affectionately and gratefully yours,

J. Ross Stevens

January 20, 1917.

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N.J.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

March 31, 1917.

Rev. W. Cortland Robinson, D.D.,

Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Robinson:-

I have received a copy of the Weekly Bulletin of your church and also of your Annual Report and I thank you most heartily for remembering me in this way. I am especially glad to note that my kinsman, W. Earle Brown, has been elected a deacon in the church. Mr. and Mrs. Moore speak enthusiastically of all your work and I rejoice in the great things you are accomplishing.

I was thinking of you today in looking over an "Advance Announcement" sent out by the Department of Religious Education of the Presbyterian Board of Publication. Dr. Paris has asked me to give my opinion of this so called "Forward Step" proposed by the Board. As one of the general grounds upon which lesson making should rest it indicates "Upon the content of the great body of moral and religious experience which forms the spiritual possession of the race, of which the Christian Scriptures are the heart and marrow, and which every boy and girl must possess if he or she is to make a complete adjustment to the highest aims and demands of life." It looks to me as if this is a rather extensive broadening of the Sabbath School platform. If the Christian Scriptures are to be at the center in the periphery there can be studied anything that has to do with the development of the race including non-Christian religions all of which can be classified along with the experiences that grow out of the Scriptures. Am I mistaken in my inference that the Board has simply gone over to the religious education idea as advocated by President George B. Stewart and others, and that the old-fashioned idea of a Bible School for our young people is to be abandoned?

Awaiting your reply, I am, with all good wishes,

Very gratefully yours,

J. Ross Stevenson -

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PRINCETON, N.J.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

April 10, 1917.

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D.,

Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Robinson:-

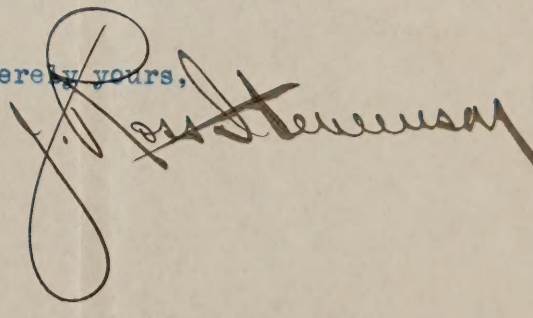
You will be interested in the enclosed letter which I have just received from Dr. Faris. In spite of all that he says I think that the statement in the announcement sheet to which I referred is of a very vague and misleading character.

We thank you for your cordial words regarding Stewart's appreciation of our home life. It is always a real joy to have him with us and we have been regretting of late that the winter has gone by so rapidly and we have seen to little of him.

I am exceedingly sorry that I cannot be here next Friday, as an engagement in Baltimore calls me to that city.

With loving good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,



Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work

Witherspoon Building Philadelphia

John T. Faris, D.D., Editor
Rev. Park Hays Miller, Assistant Editor

April 9, 1917.

Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D. D., LL. D.,
Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J.

Dear Doctor Stevenson:

Of course our idea in the sentence you quote from the announcement of A FORWARD STEP IN LESSON MAKING was that the work of the Sunday school should be entirely Biblical in its character. I felt so sure that this was what was in Doctor Veach's mind that I felt like answering your letter without conferring with him. However, I have asked him to read your letter, and have received from him the following statement.

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I have before me the letter which Doctor Stevenson wrote to you, and would say that his first interpretation is the correct one. My whole object in stating the matter as I did was to prevent, if possible, his second interpretation. I am exceedingly sorry if I have failed.

The statement was framed first, to show that a lesson system could not rest solely on a psychological study of the child as many present writers assume. Second, I aimed to show that the Christian Scriptures should be the center of organization and that anything else introduced, as Church history, mission study, nature illustrations, et cetera, must be entirely secondary and illustrative. Comparative religions, the psychology of religion, et cetera, have no place whatever in a Bible school curriculum in my estimation, and will not have so far as our Department is concerned. I am completely out of sympathy with the group of people who would eliminate the supernatural and the need for spiritual regeneration in relation to the whole treatment of the spiritual life of the child.

I trust the statement in the circular will be so interpreted.

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Thank you for the opportunity to write to you concerning this matter.

Very cordially yours,

John T. Faris

Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work

Sabbath-School and Missionary Department

REV. ALEXANDER HENRY, D.D., SECRETARY
M. S. COLLINGWOOD, TREASURER
J. M. SOMERNDIKE, SUPT. OF MISSIONS
WITHERSPOON BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 5, 1917.

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D. D.,

3504 Baring Street,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Robinson:-

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your remittance of $160 representing the contribution of your church toward the Missionary work of our Board. We received word from Mrs. List stating that in the future your Sunday-school would like to have its gifts to our Board applied toward the support of a Sabbath-school Missionary. Mrs. List stated that you would see me with reference to the special field which your school could feel that they are helping to support through their g gifts to this work. I shall be glad to suggest two or three needy fields from which you may make a selection, but it occurs to me that possibly you have some preference as to the locality in which you would like to have your school become particularly interested. As you know, we have Sabbath-school missionaries in the West and in the newer districts of the Southwest, among the negroes and among the mountaineers.

Awaiting your advice with reference to this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Somerndike